

GROWTH GROUPS

June 17, 2012

Jeremiah 29:10-14; II Corinthians 5:11-21

Conversation Starter:

Have you ever prayed about something seeking to know what God's will was for an area of your life? Many people would like to gain insight into their future (before getting married, career choice, before having children, before retirement); how do we come to understand what God's plan/purpose/will for our life? Why does God's plan for our life seem like such a mystery at times?

Understanding: Jeremiah 29:11 tells us that God knows the plan that He has for us and it is for a hope and a future, to bless us and not to harm us. As we study the scriptures and consider the nature of God as we understand Him revealing Himself throughout history; we experience a God who wants us to know Him better. Probably 90 plus percent of the whole will of God for a person's life is revealed in the pages of the Bible. Yet, the human race longs for understanding and control of the future. We want to have a sense that the mysterious 5-10% of God's will that we do not understand or that isn't plain to us can become plain to us through prayer and seeking God. No one wants you to know God's good, pleasing and perfect will more than God (Romans 12:2). The best plan that you can work out or imagine for yourself is not as good as what God's plan for your life is. We can trust God to know what is best for us and surrender to His will, purpose and plan. II Corinthians 5:11-21 tells us that in His wisdom and plan for our lives God has designed that both the bad things that happen to us as well as the good can and are used by God for our own and the good of others through the ministry of reconciliation that He has given to us. Do we really trust God?

Questions

1. What does the scripture tell us about God's good, pleasing and perfect will of God for living? Why is it only possible to test and approve God's will with a transformed mind? (Romans 12:2)
2. Why is God's plan for our lives such a mystery sometimes? Why do we struggle with God's plan for our lives at times?
3. Once we come to understand what God wants in and for our lives (what His truth on a matter is); why is it hard to submit or surrender ourselves to God's way of doing things? Is this true for you sometimes? Why?
4. Why does God place conditions that require obedience to properly align our lives with His plan and will?

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